

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIE-00 EUR-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, SOPN, US, KE

SUBJECT: UNESCO 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. WIRE SERVICE TREATMENT OCTOBER 25 AND 26 OF CONFERENCE OPENING LIMITED TO AP STORY OCTOBER 25 WHICH HIGHLIGHTED ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP AND MASS MEDIA DECLARATION ISSUES. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES FOLLOWS ALONG USUAL LINES WITH MAJOR PORTION DEVOTED TO MEDIA ISSUE FOCUSING ON THE POSSIBILITY OF STATE CONTROL OF NEWS MEDIA AND INTERNATIONAL FLOW OF NEWS.

2. STORY IN WASHINGTON POST BY-LINE ROGER MANN, OCTOBER 26, TREATS SAME TWO ISSUES IN SOMEWHAT GREATER DETAIL. IT ADDS THAT MASS MEDIA ISSUE IS SO VOLATILE THAT EC-9 (QHOTE) HAD THREATENED TO WALK OUT OF THE CONFERENCE IF IT IS EVEN DISCUSSED (END QUOTE). ARTICLE NOTES CONCERN OF

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DEVELOPING COUTRIES THAT THEY ARE INUNDATED WITH WESTERN-

SLANTED NEWS AND REPORTS M'BOW AS SAYING THAT PRESENT MEDIA STRUCTURE IS NO MORE THAN ONE-SIDED FLOW OF INFORMATION FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO THE THIRD WORLD.

SUGGESTION THAT US MIGHT WITHDRAW FROM UNESCO IF RESOLUTION ADOPTED AS IT NOW STANDS ATTRIBUTED TO LEADER OF AMERICAN DELEGATION ASSISTANT SECRETARY REINHARDT.

ARTICLE NOTES THAT KIRKPATRICK ADDED TO US DELEGATION AS SPECIAL MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE. ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT US IS SPONSORING ALTERNATIVE DECLARATION STRESSING FREEDOM OF OPINION AND FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION. ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT US HAS REFUSED TO PAY ITS DUES IN PROTEST OF 1974 UNESCO DECISION NOT TO ASSIGN ISRAEL TO REGIONAL GROUP. UNESCO SPOKESMAN REPORTED CONFIDENT THAT ISRAEL WILL BE ACCEPTED INTO EUROPEAN GROUP AND THAT THIS WOULD LEAD US TO RESUME ITS CONTRIBUTION.

3. UNESCO NOT RAISED AT NOON BRIEFING OCT. 26. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AND MAY BE USEFUL TO EMBASSY: (BEGIN QUOTE)

QUESTION: NEWS REPORTS SAY THAT THERE WILL BE A MAJOR CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE WESTERN COUNTRIES AND THE THIRD WORLD AT THE UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI OVER A RESOLUTION THAT WOULD LIMIT PRESS FREEDOM AND WHICH ALSO INCLUDES A REFERENCE TO THE UN RESOLUTION EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM. WHAT DOES THE UNITED STATES INTEND TO DO?

ANSWER: THE UNITED STATES IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE DOCUMENT IN QUESTION. WE HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR SOME TIME WITH COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY WESTERN EUROPE, THAT SHARE OUR VIEWS. THERE ARE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT WISH TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION ON THIS ISSUE AND WE ARE NOT WITHOUT HOPE OF BEING ABLE TO WORK OUT AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH THAT AVOIDS CONFRONTATION AND ENCROACHMENT ON THE FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA. AS TO WHAT WE WOULD DO IF THESE EFFORTS SHOULD FAIL, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE HAVE MADE WIDELY KNOWN TO OTHER UNESCO MEMBERS OUR DEEP CONCERN OVER THIS DOCUMENT AND THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF ITS ADOPTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TION FOR THE FUTURE US ROLE IN UNESCO.

DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN: IF ASKED, YOU MAY STATE THAT WE ARE CONSULTING CLOSELY WITH THE COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES ON THIS ISSUE. (END QUOTE)

4. FULL REVIEW OF US PRESS COVERAGE OF UNESCO BEING SENT USIA WIRELESS FILE.

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